









# SPARK High Flight Checklist for Exemplary Writing

	 <b>Ground School</b>	 <b>Going for Altitude</b>	 <b>Full Throttle!</b>	 <b>Afterburner!</b>
<b>CONTENT, IDEAS, and DEVELOPMENT</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'm not interested in what I'm writing about, or I'm not clear about my ideas</li> <li>I don't have any details, or my details do not match the main idea</li> </ul> <p><b>Let's Find a Blueprint and Rebuild this Thing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'm not sure if these are my best ideas, and other ideas are just thrown in</li> <li>I need to describe or explain so my ideas are clearer to readers</li> </ul> <p><b>There's Wings, Engines, and a Rudder, What Else Do You Need?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I know what I'm writing about, but some other ideas pop up that are not about my main idea</li> <li>Some of my details are good, but some might be too general or unclear</li> </ul> <p><b>Get the Wrench: Let's Tighten Some Connections</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I know what I'm writing about, and every word I write is about my main idea or the details</li> <li>I use details so the reader can imagine or understand my subject</li> </ul> <p><b>Flying High!</b></p>
<b>ORGANIZATION</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I start at the top of the page and the end is that last line at the bottom, see?</li> <li>Even I have trouble following my writing</li> </ul> <p><b>Way Off Course . . . Let's Look at a Map</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I've got a beginning, middle, and end, but I may have to clue readers in by writing "The End!"</li> <li>I remembered some other good ideas part way through, so I just threw them in.</li> </ul> <p><b>Foggy Weather—Check Your Compass</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I've written an introduction, body, and conclusion</li> <li>Readers can follow my ideas as long as they remember or look back at my introduction</li> </ul> <p><b>Getting There with Minor Detours</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I've written (and rewritten) the best introduction, body, and conclusion I can</li> <li>I move on to new ideas by using transitions between thoughts or paragraphs</li> </ul> <p><b>On Course and Right On Target!</b></p>
<b>VOICE</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I keep my vocabulary simple and take no risks with colorful or complex words</li> <li>I write using the same pattern over and over; either short, choppy sentences or long, difficult sentences</li> <li>I'm not reaching out; readers can take it or leave it</li> </ul> <p><b>Faint and Lots of Static—This is NOT a message from the confident kid I know!</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of my words are "just right;" others are a little clunky</li> <li>Some sentences sound like me; some sound like anyone, or even a robot</li> <li>I know who my readers are and sometimes try to draw them in</li> </ul> <p><b>A Little Static or Fuzzy—Boost Your Transmitter!</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use "just right" words for accuracy</li> <li>I change sentence patterns so they stay interesting.</li> <li>I know who my readers are and am thinking of them from start to finish</li> </ul> <p><b>I Can Hear You Now!</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use "just right" words for accuracy and interest</li> <li>I change sentence patterns so they stay interesting and there is a "flow" to my writing</li> <li>I know who my readers are and leave them with strong impressions of how I think or feel</li> </ul> <p><b>Coming Through Loud and Clear!</b></p>
<b>CONVENTIONS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Even I have trouble reading my own grammar, capitalization, punctuation, or spelling</li> </ul> <p><b>Let's Ground This Bird For Maintenance . . .</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of my grammar, capitalization, punctuation, or spelling creates confusion and distractions</li> </ul> <p><b>Turbulence Makes This a Rough Ride</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have left few distractions for readers: grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling are close to perfect</li> </ul> <p><b>Cruising Along with the Occasional Bump or Flutter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing distracts my readers: my grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling are all clean and polished</li> </ul> <p><b>Zooming Along!</b></p>
<b>Flight Observations, Appreciations, Challenges, and Suggestions on the other side.</b>				